

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A reporting system for creating a report using a computer comprising:

a prompt object comprising a question to be asked of a user and at least one validation property, the prompt object being used to define ~~some or every~~ one or more aspects of a report definition; and

a resolution object for collecting an answer to a question of the prompt object for report creation;

wherein the resolution object is created and stored prior to ~~the~~ execution of a report.

2. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the resolution object is created by a third party outside of the reporting system.

3. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the stored resolution object is used to answer a prompt in a report instance during the execution of a report.

4. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein an answer from a stored resolution object is used to modify a default answer to a prompt in a report.

5. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 3, wherein the resolution object causes ~~the~~ suppression of a prompt.

6. (Original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the report is scheduled to execute at a future time.

7. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein a resolution object converts itself from XML into another format for the reporting system upon receipt by the reporting system from a third party source.

8 - 20 (Cancelled).

21 - 23 (Cancelled).

24. (New) A method for creating a report using a computer comprising:
defining a report using a definition, comprising a filter and a template,
using a prompt object to further define one or more aspects of the report definition, the prompt object comprising a question to be asked of a user and at least one validation property;
and

collecting an answer to a question of the prompt object for report creation using a resolution object;

wherein the resolution object is created and stored prior to execution of the report.

25. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein the resolution object is created by a third party outside of the reporting system.

26. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein the stored resolution object is used to answer a prompt in a report instance during execution of the report.

27. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein an answer from a stored resolution object is used to modify a default answer to a prompt in a report.

28. (New) The method according to claim 26, wherein the resolution object causes suppression of a prompt.

29. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein the report is scheduled to execute at a future time.

30. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein a resolution object converts itself from XML into another format for the reporting system upon receipt by the reporting system from a third party source.

31. (New) A reporting system for creating a report using a computer comprising:
a report definition, comprising a filter and a template;
a prompt object comprising a question to be asked of a user and at least one validation property, the prompt object being used to further define one or more aspects of a report definition; and

a resolution object for collecting an answer to a question of the prompt object for report creation;

wherein the resolution object is created and stored prior to execution of the report.